

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 06093 01 OF 02 161734Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 NSC-05  
/035 W

-----161819Z 096089 /46

O 161648Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8077

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 CARACAS 6093

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, VE

SUBJECT: PEREZ STATE VISIT: PRESIDENT CARTER'S DINNER TOAST

REF: STATE 126852

1. QUOTED BELOW IS SUGGESTED DRAFT TEXT OF PRESIDENT  
CARTER'S TOAST FOR THE WHITE HOUSE DINNER JUNE 28.

2. QUOTE IT IS WITH A GREAT DEAL OF PLEASURE THAT I WELCOME  
YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, TO OUR NATION'S CAPITAL. NEARLY 200 YEARS  
AGO ANOTHER GREAT VENEZUELAN LEADER CAME TO THESE SAME SHORES  
TO SEE FOR HIMSELF THE RESULTS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

I REFER, OF COURSE, TO GENERAL FRANCISCO DE MIRANDA, WHO VISITED  
THE UNITED STATES FOR TWO YEARS, FROM 1783 TO 1785, WHILE  
PREPARING TO STRUGGLE FOR VENEZUELA'S FREEDOM. MR. PRESIDENT,  
IT IS ENTIRELY FITTING THAT FROM HERE YOU WILL TRAVEL TO  
MIRANDA'S FOOTSTEPS TO PHILADELPHIA, OUR NATION'S  
FIRST CAPITAL, WHERE YOU WILL DEDICATE A STATUE IN MEMORY OF  
THAT GREAT PRECURSOR OF VENEZUELAN INDEPENDENCE.

3. BOTH OF OUR COUNTRIES, MR. PRESIDENT, HAVE COME A LONG WAY  
IN THE LAST 200 YEARS. IN THE INTERVENING YEARS WE HAVE FACED  
MANY ADVERSITIES. BUT IT CAN SAFELY BE SAID THAT NEITHER OF OUR  
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PAGE 02 CARACA 06093 01 OF 02 161734Z

COUNTRIES HAS LOST THE VISION OF OUR FOUNDING FATHERS, WHICH WAS  
TO ESTABLISH A FREE AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY WHERE MEN CAN LIVE IN  
PEACE. FOR THE LAST NINETEEN YEARS VENEZUELA HAS SERVED AS AN  
EXAMPLE OF WHAT A PEOPLE, UNDER COURAGEOUS AND INSPIRED LEADERS,  
AND THROUGH THEIR OWN EFFORTS CAN DO TO BRING ABOUT INTERNAL CHANGE  
FROM A SYSTEM OF ARBITRARY RULE TO FREE AND OPEN DEMOCRATIC  
GOVERNMENT. IN THE EARLY 1960'S, WITHOUT COMPROMISING ITS BASIC

DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES, VENEZUELA, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THAT TITAN OF LATIN AMERICAN LEADERS, DON ROMULO BETANCOURT, OVERCAME A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE EXISTENCE OF ITS FLEDGLING DEMOCRACY. IN SUCCEEDING YEARS, YOUR POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS HAVE BEEN STRENGTHENED BY AN ACTIVE AND VIGOROUS DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM.

4. WHEN ROSALYNN RETURNED FROM HER SOUTH AMERICAN TRIP EARLIER THIS MONTH, SHE TOLD ME HOW IMPRESSED SHE WAS WITH THE DYNAMISM AND PROGRESS OF VENEZUELA. YOUR GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO IMPROVING THE LIVING STANDARD OF ALL VENEZUELAN THROUGH A VAST PROGRAM OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS. SHE TOLD ME ALSO OF HER WIDE-RANGING CONVERSATIONS WITH YOU. SHE WAS IMPRESSED WITH YOUR GRASP OF ISSUES, YOUR FORCEFULNESS, AND YOUR INTEREST IN A GENUINE INTERCHANGE OF IDEAS. I, TOO, AM GREATLY IMPRESSED BY YOUR CANDID AND FRANKLY FASCINATING VIEWS ABOUT THE PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF VENEZUELA, LATIN AMERICA, AND THE DEVELOPING WORLD. OUR DISCUSSIONS DURING YOUR VISIT WILL HAVE SERVED TO CLARIFY THE MANY ISSUES ON WHICH OUR GOVERNMENTS AGREE AND TO IDENTIFY AREAS WHICH REQUIRE CONTINUING CONSULTATION.

5. AS I SAID IN MY PAN AMERICAN DAY SPEECH, MR. PRESIDENT, THE PROBLEMS AND THE PROMISES OF OUR REGION HAVE BECOME AS DIVERSE AS THE WORLD ITSELF. THE CHALLENGES OF OUR MODERN AGE AND THE DEPTH OF THE ASPIRATIONS AND NEEDS OF THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD MAKE IT ESSENTIAL, AS NEVER BEFORE, FOR US TO SEEK A WIDER SYSTEM OF WORLD COOPERATION, A WIDER INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION, TO DEAL WITH THE OPPORTUNITIES AND THE ISSUES THAT FACE MANKIND IN THIS LAST QUARTER OF THE 20TH CENTURY. WE SEE THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AS VERY IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF THE WORLD

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PAGE 03 CARACA 06093 01 OF 02 161734Z

COMMUNITY, AS ONES WHOSE CONTRIBUTION AND LEADERSHIP ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE STRUCTURING OF THAT PEACEFUL, JUST, AND FRUITFUL INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM THAT MUST BE OUR ULTIMATE GOAL. AND SO WE WANT TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH YOU ON GLOBAL AS WELL AS REGIONAL AND BILATERAL QUESTIONS. WE ARE PREPARED TO EXPLORE WITH THE NATIONS OF THIS HEMISPHERE NEW WAYS OF COOPERATING ON A WIDE RANGE OF INSTITUTIONAL, HUMAN, DEVELOPMENTAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL PROBLEMS.

6. WITH VENEZUELA WE SEEK TO DEVELOP NEW AND MORE HELPFUL RELATIONSHIPS. OUR TWO NATIONS FOR EXAMPLE ARE DISCUSSING WAYS TO EXCHANGE SCIENTIFIC, TECHNOLOGICAL SKILLS. WE HOPE TO INCREASE INTELLECTUAL, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES. WE INTEND TO FIND PRACTICAL WAYS TO CONSULT PERIODICALLY WITH EACH OTHER ON THESE AND OTHER TOPICS.

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PAGE 01 CARACA 06093 02 OF 02 161741Z  
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 CARACAS 6093

7. WITH REGARD TO MAJOR PROBLEMS AND ISSUES IN THIS HEMISPHERE, YOU HAVE, MR. PRESIDENT, EXPRESSED WITH GREAT CLARITY AND VISION VENEZUELA'S INTEREST, TOGETHER WITH THAT OF ALL OF LATIN AMERICA, IN THE SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF SUCH MATTERS AS THE PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS. I VALUE YOUR VIEWS AND COUNSEL. IN ALL THE AREAS OF WORLD CONCERN--NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION, LAW OF THE SEA, ARMS CONTROL AND PARTICULARLY IN THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, YOU AND YOUR COUNTRY HAVE PLAYED CRITICAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE ROLES. VENEZUELA'S ACTIVE PURSUIT, FOR EXAMPLE, OF AN OUTWARD-LOOKING POLICY OF ASSISTING ITS LESS FINANCIALLY FORTUNATE NEIGHBORS HAS BEEN AN EXMPLE WORTHY OF EMULATION BY THE ADVANTAGED OPEC COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS THE INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES, IN MEETING THE PRESSING REQUIREMENTS OF ASSISTANCE TO THE POORER NATIONS. VEN- EZUELA HAS BEEN IN THE FOREFRONT IN SEEKING TO ESTABLISH A NUCLE-FREE ZONE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN UNDER THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO. THE PLEDGE OF EIGHT SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING VENEZUELA, CONTAINED IN THE DECLARATION OF AYACUCHO, TO REDUCE ARMS IMBALANCE AND THE ACQUISITION OF OFFENSIVE WEAPONS SYSTEMS IS A LAUDABLE EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. AT THE RECENT CIEC CONFERENCE IN PARIS, THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION AND ESPECIALLY MINISTER PEREZ GUERRERO WHO WAS CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE, PLAYED A CRITICAL ROLE IN SEEKING TO MOVE THE DEVELOPED AND THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CLOSER TOWARD CONSENSUS. PROGRESS WAS MADE IN PARIS IN SOME IMPORTANT AREAS, BUT THAT PROGRESS IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 CARACA 06093 02 OF 02 161741Z

CONTINGENT ON CONTINUING THE COOPERATION. YOUR VISIT IS BUT ONE STEP IN THE CONSULTATIONS WHICH WILL BE NECESSARY AMONG THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD SO THAT WE CAN TOGETHER IMPLEMENT THE DECISIONS OF PARIS AND CONTINUE TO MAKE PROGRESS ON OTHER

IMPORTANT ISSUES.

8. BUT PERHAPS IT IS IN THE AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS, MR. PRESIDENT--  
IN THE BELIEF OF THE WORTH AND RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL--THAT OUR  
COUNTRIES STAND MOST CLOSELY TOGETHER. BECAUSE OF VENEZUELA'S  
EXPERIENCE WITH DICTATORAL RULE AND OPPRESSION YOUR COUNTRY  
IS ONE OF THE FOREMOST LEADERS IN THE HEMISPHERE IN FURTHERING  
THE OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. VENEZUELA HAS TAKEN A LEADING  
AND VITAL ROLE IN THE WORK OF THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS  
COMMISSION, LED SO ABLY BY AN OUTSTANDING VENEZUELA JURIST,  
AMBASSADOR ANDRES AGUILAR. YOUR COUNTRY HAS JUST RATIFIED THE  
AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH  
WE WILL SIGN (OR WHICH WE HAVE JUST SIGNED) SETS (OR WILL SET)  
OUT THE PROFOUND COMMITMENT OUR TWO NATIONS HAVE TO PROMOTE  
HUMAN FREEDOM AND DIGNITY.

9. DURING OUR CONVERSATIONS, MR. PRESIDENT, WE HAVE SPOKEN OF  
OUR COMMON VISION OF DEMOCRACY, A VISION BASED ON THE CONVICTION  
THAT DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT CAN BE BOTH EFFICIENT AND HUMANE.  
FURTHER WE HAVE AGREED THAT WITHOUT SUCH A COMMITMENT THOSE  
WHO SUFFER UNDER THE ARBITRARY POWERS OF THE STATE WOULD INDEED  
HAVE NO HOPE FOR A BETTER LOT, AND SEE NO MEANING IN THEIR STRUGGLE  
TO REALIZE THE DIGNITY OF MAN. YOUR PRESENCE IN THE WHITE HOUSE  
TONIGHT, MR. PRESIDENT, SERVES TO CONFIRM AND REAFFIRM OUR  
SHARED BASIC OPTIMISM IN THE FUTURE OF THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM  
AND TO STRENGTHEN THE IMPORTANT MORAL TIES THAT LINK OUR TWO  
DEMOCRACIES. I AM CERTAIN THAT THE GREAT LIBERATOR, SIMON  
BOLIVAR, WOULD BE HEARTENED TO KNOW THAT IN HIS NATIVE LAND HIS  
CHERISHED DREAM OF FREEDOM AND HUMAN DIGNITY HAS BEEN FULFILLED.

10. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I RAISE MY GLASS TO TOAST PRESIDENT  
CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ AND SENORA DE PEREZ AND THE GREAT NATION  
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PAGE 03 CARACA 06093 02 OF 02 161741Z

OF VENEZUELA WHICH THEY REPRESENT. UNQUOTE.  
VAKY

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## Message Attributes

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